(e) if so, whether Government propose to get the modernization work of airports executed by Airports Authority of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Government has decided to restructure and modernise Delhi and Mumbai airports through the formation of Joint Venture Companies. As regards non-metro airports, AAI has plans to develop and modernize 35 airports.

(b) to (e) Airports Authority of India is technically capable and has finances to modernize some airports. Joint Venture Partners make it possible to get sufficient funds to finance funding of greenfield airports and modernize existing ones in addition to what AAI is doing. Airports Authority of India would require considerable structural changes in the manpower system, attitude and behavioural changes in employees.

Considering the quantum of investment required in airport infrastructure, the Airport Infrastructure Policy 1997 provides for encouraging private investment in airport infrastructure.

Functioning of Public Sector Enterprises

*53. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Working Group set up the Reserve Bank of India on conflicts of interests in the Indian Financial Services Sector have recently suggested that in the case of Public Sector Enterprises, improvement in governance mechanism could be brought about by transferring the actual governance functions from the concerned administrative Ministries to the Boards, specialized agencies (Trusts, SPV's, etc.);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government proposed to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that the Working Group set up by it on 'Conflicts of Interests in the Indian Financial Services Sector' has,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

inter alia, suggested that in the case of Public Sector Enterprises, improvement in governance mechanism could be brought about by transferring the actual governance functions from the concerned administrative Ministries to the Board, specialized agencies (Trusts, SPVs, etc.). The RBI has posted the report on its website on 16.1.2006 for public comments. The comments will be accepted by RBI till the end of February, 2006.

Improvement in efficiency of ATC employees

*54. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent news report stating acute shortage of skilled and trained staff to manage air traffic control in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that ATC staffers have been found guilty of not following prescribed guidelines for communication, resulting in risk to air passengers security;

(c) whether Government are planning any steps to improve efficiency of ATC employees in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Standard guidelines as prescribed by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) are followed by ATC officers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Steps taken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for improving efficiency of ATC officers *inter alia* include regular Refresher Training, upgradation of ATC system and Group infrastructure particularly at major airports and exposure of ATC officers at times to advanced ATC systems available in other countries.

Tax benefits for farm sector

*55. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage the people to buy farm land rather than investing in buying land for building houses;